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Canada: Prime Minister's Office

Government
Publications

NATURAL RESOURCES OF ALBERTA

CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE
OF ALBERTA

PRINTED BY ORDER OF PARLIAMENT



OTTAWA
F. A. ACLAND
PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY
1930

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Correspondence re Transfer of Alberta Natural Resources

SASKATCHEWAN AND ALBERTA NATURAL RESOURCES

STATEMENT GIVEN TO THE PRESS—JUNE 26, 1929

Upon the conclusion of the conference with the representatives of the Government of Manitoba, it was stated by the Prime Minister that the Dominion Government, having in mind negotiations now pending with the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and the representations of the Governments of these provinces with respect to the continuance of the payment of subsidies in accordance with the terms of existing legislation, is now prepared to accord to Alberta and Saskatchewan, in settlement of the resources question, treatment similar to that granted to Manitoba with respect to the continuance of Dominion subsidies.

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER, ALBERTA

EDMONTON, September 24, 1929.

SIR,—Your letter of December 29, 1928, relative to the transfer to Alberta of its natural resources, was submitted by the Government to the Provincial Legislature during the last session. On the advice of the Government the Legislature took no definite action, but left the whole matter for further discussion with your Government.

I felt at the time that the views of this Government could be placed before you more accurately by verbal communication than by letter, and had hoped to be able to visit Ottawa before this to further discuss the whole question with you. I have unfortunately been unable to do so.

In the meantime, I gather from newspaper reports that, as a result of the report of the commission investigating Manitoba's claim for the return of its resources, your Government is prepared to amend the terms set out in your letter above referred to. If this report is correct I will be glad to hear from you further, or if you prefer will hold myself in readiness to visit Ottawa at any time convenient to you.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours truly,

(Sgd) J. E. BROWNLEE.

The Rt. Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING,
Premier of Canada,
Ottawa, Ontario.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, CANADA

OTTAWA, October 5, 1929.

The Hon. J. E. BROWNLEE, M.L.A.,
Premier of Alberta,
Edmonton, Alberta.

DEAR MR. BROWNLEE:

Re: Transfer to Alberta of its Natural Resources

I am pleased to have your letter of the 24th of September, relative to the transfer to Alberta of the natural resources of your province. The newspaper reports to the effect that, as a result of the acceptance of the report of the Royal Commission on the transfer of natural resources of Manitoba, our Government was prepared to amend the terms set out in my letter to you of December 29, 1928, is correct. The intimation referred to was given to the press at the time of the acceptance by our Government of this report, in order that all the provinces, and in particular your own province and the province of Saskatchewan, might have immediate knowledge of what was contemplated. Had it not been that in view of your wire of February 11 I have all along been expecting to have some further word from yourself, I would, at the time of giving out the intimation, have communicated immediately with you. Perhaps at the moment I cannot do better than quote from the statement given to the press on June 26 and which no doubt is the one to which your letter has reference. It reads as follows:—

"Upon the conclusion of the conference with the representatives of the Government of Manitoba, it was stated by the Prime Minister that the Dominion Government, having in mind negotiations now pending with the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and the representations of the Governments of these provinces with respect to the continuance of the payment of subsidies in accordance with the terms of existing legislation, is now prepared to accord to Alberta and Saskatchewan, in settlement of the resources question, treatment similar to that granted to Manitoba with respect to the continuance of Dominion subsidies".

As set forth in this statement, we have agreed with Manitoba to continue the payment of subsidies in accordance with the terms of existing legislation. In this particular we are prepared to alter in the form of a further concession to Alberta the terms of the agreement tentatively reached with your province. I shall be pleased to hear from you as to whether or not the agreement thus modified will be satisfactory to the province of Alberta.

If the agreement thus modified will be satisfactory to you, I should be inclined to feel that such further negotiations as may be necessary to conclude the transfer, short of the necessary legislation, might be arranged by correspondence between yourself and the Minister of the Interior. If, however, there remain any features of the matter you would like to have discussed in conversation, my colleagues and I would be pleased to avail ourselves of your willingness to come to Ottawa at a time convenient for that purpose. Mr. Lapointe is in England at the moment, and I shall be leaving for the west in the course of a few weeks, to be absent most of the month of November. Should further conference be necessary I would suggest a date after the return of Mr. Lapointe and myself to Ottawa, which would be, at the latest, about the first week of December.

With kind regards, believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

(Sgd.) W. L. MACKENZIE KING.

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER, ALBERTA

EDMONTON, October 9, 1929.

MY DEAR PRIME MINISTER:

Re: Transfer to Alberta of its Natural Resources

I thank you for your letter of the 5th instant, confirming the amended terms your Government is prepared to offer us in accordance with the statements contained in the press on June 26.

There are certain important matters of detail which, in accordance with the suggestion in your letter, we will discuss with the Minister of the Interior. I observe by the press that the Honourable Mr. Stewart will be in Edmonton in the course of the next two weeks when I shall, no doubt, have the opportunity of meeting him.

In the meantime I shall place your letter before my colleagues and I should be able to inform you soon after my meeting with Mr. Stewart if the proposed terms are acceptable to the province, or if we feel a further meeting with your Government is desirable.

I note that if a further meeting is necessary it would necessarily be about the first week of December.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) J. E. BROWNLEE.

Rt. Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING,
Premier of Canada,
Ottawa, Ont.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY'S TELEGRAPH

EDMONTON, ALTA., November 27, 1929.

Rt. Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING,
Premier of Canada,
Ottawa, Ont.

Understand you have granted appointment to Saskatchewan Government for December tenth to consider natural resources STOP As your time did not permit any discussion here consider it advisable we should meet you immediately preceding or following your appointment with Saskatchewan STOP Kindly wire if appointment acceptable to you either ninth or eleventh preferably eleventh.

J. E. BROWNLEE.

CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAM

EDMONTON, ALTA., November 29, 1929.

Rt. Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING,
Prime Minister,
Ottawa, Ont.

Would greatly appreciate reply my wire asking for appointment December ninth or eleventh or as soon thereafter as possible STOP Saskatchewan Government has invited me join their delegates and might make certain suggestions which would expedite settlement in that province STOP In any event desire discuss certain aspects proposals to this province STOP Planning leave here 3rd if either dates suggested acceptable to you.

J. E. BROWNLEE.

CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAPHS

OTTAWA, November 30, 1929.

Honourable J. E. BROWNLEE,
Premier of Alberta,
Edmonton, Alberta.

RUSH. Replying your telegrams November twenty-seventh and twenty-ninth, *re* natural resources, will be pleased, as requested, to arrange appointment my office Wednesday, December eleventh.

W. L. MACKENZIE KING.

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER, ALBERTA

EDMONTON, December 30, 1929.

SIR,—Please accept my thanks for your telegram of the 24th instant. I am sure Mr. Hoadley and Mr. Lymburn will appreciate, as fully as I do, your thoughtfulness in forwarding us copy of the picture taken of the Privy Council Chamber at the time of signing the agreement for the natural resources.

It is, no doubt, impossible for you to follow the daily press in all of the provinces of Canada. It may interest you to know, however, that the settlement arranged with this province has met with practically unanimous approval throughout the province and I think every daily paper has commented most favourably upon the terms. It should, I think, be a matter of gratification to the members of both Governments that such an important subject of negotiations has been finally adjusted in such a way as to leave practically no room for criticism in the province directly interested.

May I again take this opportunity of expressing the appreciation of the members of this Government for the courtesy and thoughtfulness with which you have met us from time to time throughout the negotiations.

Wishing you the compliments of the season, I am,

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) J. E. BROWNLEE.

Rt. Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING,
Premier of Canada,
Ottawa, Ont.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, CANADA

OTTAWA, January 4, 1930.

Hon. J. E. BROWNLEE,
Premier of Alberta,
Edmonton, Alberta.

DEAR MR. BROWNLEE,—The kind words of your letter of December 30 have given me unqualified pleasure. I am indeed pleased with the reception which the settlement of the resources question has met with in your province.

Allow me to reciprocate very warmly the good wishes you have expressed for the New Year.

Yours very sincerely,

(Sgd.) W. L. MACKENZIE KING.

